



August 26, 2008

Malcolm Huston
IOWAccess Manager
Iowa Department of Administrative Services
Hoover Building
1305 E Walnut
Des Moines IA 50319-0106

Malcolm:

I am writing as a follow-up to our phone conversation last week regarding the County Real Estate Web (CREW) portal application for additional funds that was approved by the IOWAccess Advisory Council at their meeting on July 9, 2008.

As I told you there are three areas in the written application that have created concern among members of the CREW board.

First, the application contains multiple references to a "fifth affiliate" being added to the CREW project, and in each case the reference should have been "fifth affiliate web service". There has been and still are four statewide affiliate organizations representing the four county offices with real estate data; auditors, treasurers, recorders, and assessors. At the time the IOWAccess Advisory Council approved the grant in March 2007 to build the CREW portal, there was one affiliate web service for each of the four affiliates; however, the 99 county treasurers are now represented by two separate web services. Simply put, there are four affiliates with five affiliate web services, and references in the application should have been made to the latter.

Second, in reading the application with the benefit of hindsight, there is a disproportionate emphasis placed on the above addition of a fifth affiliate web service as a main reason for the need for additional funds. As I told the Council at their meeting on July 9th, the need for additional funds is mainly based on the challenges

of developing consensus among the independent authorities that comprise the CREW project and a common approach among their respective IT representatives. Although the addition of the fifth affiliate web service was a part of the need for additional funds, its portrayal in the application was overstated in the application.

Finally, there is an accounting of hours and related costs in the application that incorrectly assigns 185 hours to the additional coding required to add the fifth affiliate web service. It is my understanding from Project Manager Deb McDaniel that the correct number of hours for this part of the project should have been shown as 40 hours, 20 hours for programming and testing and 20 hours for meetings, phone calls, emails, etc. Deb further stated that the total number of hours was accurate; however, some of the hours were incorrectly assigned to the wrong area in the application.

The combined effect of the above misstatements was to portray some members of the CREW project in an unfortunate light, and in each case I regret and take personal responsibility for them. That said, however, the entire CREW board nonetheless supports the CREW project and greatly appreciates the continued support from the IOWAccess Advisory Council.

If the members of the Council believe the information in this letter would have affected their joint decision to approve the additional funds, we would be glad to reappear before the Council and or resubmit our application.

At your suggestion, this letter was presented to, reviewed, and approved by all members of the CREW board. Finally, you had offered to meet with some or all members, and although we may have future issues on which we would need to meet, we do not have such a need on this issue.

Thank you for your advice and assistance. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Kenneth W. Kline
CREW Board Chair

CREW Board Members
LaRayne Riccadonna
Kathy Croker
Holly Fokkena
Ken Kline
Deb Roberts
Diane Swoboda Peterson
Peg Weitzl
Mike Grandon

Iowa State Association of Assessors
Iowa State Association of Assessors
Iowa State Association of County Auditors
Iowa State Association of County Auditors
Iowa County Recorders Association
Iowa County Recorders Association
Iowa State County Treasurers Association
Iowa State County Treasurers Association